

Joseph A. Equale
51 Turtleback Road
Wilton, CT 06897

March 1, 2009

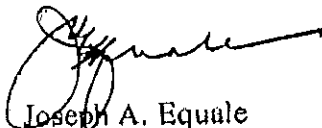
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
VIA Fax: 860-240-8306 ~ Senator Boucher

Dear Chairman DeFronzo, Chairman Guerrero, Ranking Member Boucher and Ranking Member Scribner and other distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

The issue of a Super 7 Highway from Norwalk to the Danbury line is a 50 year old controversy that has been shelved by the state for a number of reasons, including consideration that 40% of the land needed for the construction of the 20 mile long highway is not currently owned by the state and would need to be acquired before any movement on the project could take place. Further, the property to be acquired represents one of the largest wetlands in our state, requiring a federal environmental impact statement, which I understand most individuals closest to the proposal for Super 7 feel would never be received in the affirmative. In addition, the cost of building a 20 mile long and 100 foot high fly over highway would be unaffordable given new national roadway engineering requirements. Finally, environmental group and local town opposition including Ridgefield, Redding, Wilton and parts of many surrounding towns would keep it in the courts for decades.

For the record, I hereby voice my support for SB434B *AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF LAND ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED FOR THE "SUPER 7" HIGHWAY*. Such legislation appears to be a better option and gives our State's Department of Transportation (DOT) more flexibility in the use or disposition of this land which has been restricted so many years ago. Accordingly, DOT may or may not sell or use this land according to the times or needs of the state at some future date. Let's move on with resolving this long-standing irritant.

Very truly yours,



Joseph A. Equale